REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-14 will remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 will be amended, and claim 15 will be cancelled. Claims 5 and 11 were cancelled in a previous amendment. Entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566) in view of Nishikori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584), and rejected claims 4, 10, 13 and 14 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Nishikori et al., and further in view of Ozawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,248).

Upon entry of the present amendment, independent claim 1 will be amended to include features of dependent claim 4, independent claim 7 will be amended to include features of dependent claim 10, and claim 15 will be cancelled. Claim 15 will be cancelled merely to advance prosecution of the application to issue, and thus its cancellation should not be taken as an acquiescence to the propriety of the rejection. Further, Applicant expressly reserves the right to include claim 15 in a continuation application.

Applicant's amended claim 1 recites an electronic endoscope system including a scope having a solid state image sensor and a monitor. The electronic endoscope system includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, and a clock-pulse generator that produces first and second series of clock pulses. The first series of clock pulses have a higher frequency than that of the second series of clock pulses. The electronic endoscope system

also includes a clock-pulse-selection system that selects either the first or second series of clock pulses to be output from the clock-pulse generator, and a clock-pulse-selection-controller that controls the clock-pulse-selection system such that the first series of clock pulses having the higher frequency is forcibly output from the clock-pulse generator whenever the scene on the monitor is changed from the endoscope-image-display scene to the patient-data-list-display scene by the scene-changing system.

Applicant's amended independent claim 7 recites an electronic endoscope system and a monitor. The electronic endoscope system includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode. The second display mode includes a patient-data-list-display scene. The electronic endoscope system also includes a clock-pulse generator that produces first and second series of clock pulses. The first series of clock pulses have a higher frequency than a frequency of the second series of clock pulses. The electronic endoscope system also includes a clock-pulse-selection system, and a clock-pulse-selection controller that controls the clock-pulse-selection system such that the first series of clock pulses having the higher frequency is forcibly output from the clock-pulse generator whenever the scene on the monitor is changed from the first display mode to the patient-data-list-display scene by the scene-changing system.

On page 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al. do not disclose the features recited in claims 4 and 10. However, the Examiner asserted that those features are taught by Ozawa et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ozawa et al. discloses an electronic endoscope which includes, inter alia, an analog-to-digital converter for converting analog electric image-pixel signals into digital electric image-pixel signals on the basis of a series of clock pulses, where the converted digital electric image-

pixel signals can be processed so as to be outputted externally on the basis of another series of clock pulses having a different given frequency. See, e.g., col. 3, lines 39-49 of Ozawa et al.

Applicants submit that Ozawa's electronic endoscope system converts analog electric image-pixels signals into digital electric image-pixel signals based on a first series of clock pulses, and that a number of converted digital electric image-pixel signals included in one-horizontal-scanning-line is based upon a frequency of the first series of clock pulses. Ozawa's electronic endoscope system converts the number of the converted digital electric image-pixel signals into another number of digital image-pixel signals to be externally outputted being coincident with a frequency of a second series of clock pulses, which is different than a frequency of the first series of clock pulses. See, e.g., col. 3, line 64 – col. 4, line 13 of Ozawa et al. If the frequency of the first clock pulses is larger than the frequency of the second clock pulses, the digital electric image-pixel signals are subjected to a thinning-process, and if the frequency of the first clock pulses is smaller than the frequency of the second clock pulses, the digital electric image-pixel signals are subjected to an interpolating process. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26 and 55-59 of Ozawa et al. Applicants respectfully submit that Ozawa's electronic endoscope thus accommodates frequencies of imaging signals from different imaging devices with a frequency required for an output device, so that video signals are output in a single format. See, e.g., col. 10, lines 28-38, and col. 11, line 51 – col. 12, line 18 of Ozawa et al.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Ozawa et al. does not disclose or suggest that the electronic endoscope has a clock-pulse-selection-controller that controls a clock-pulse-selection system such that a first series of clock pulses having a higher frequency than that of a second series of clock pulses is forcibly output from a clock-pulse generator whenever a scene on a monitor is changed from an endoscope-image-display scene to a patient-data-list-display

scene by a scene-changing system, as recited in Applicants' amended claim 1, or whenever a scene on a monitor is changed from a first display mode to a patient-data-list-display scene by a scene-changing system, as recited in Applicant's amended claim 7. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that Ozawa et al. fails to even disclose that the electronic endoscope includes a scene-changing system which changes a scene on a monitor from an endoscope-image-display scene, or first display mode, to a patient-data-list-display scene.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes a clock-pulse generator that produces first and second series of clock pulses, and a clock-pulse-selection-controller, where the first series of clock pulses have a higher frequency than that of the second series of clock pulses, and the clock-pulse-selection-controller controls a clock-pulse-selection system such that the first series of clock pulses having the higher frequency is forcibly output from the clock-pulse generator whenever a scene on a monitor is changed from an endoscope-image-display scene to a patient-data-list-display scene by a scene-changing system, as recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 1.

Applicant further submits that the combination of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes a clock-pulse generator that produces first and second series of clock pulses, and a clock-pulse-selection controller, where the first series of clock pulses have a higher frequency than a frequency of the second series of clock pulses, and the clock-pulse-selection controller controls a clock-pulse-selection system such that the first series of clock pulses having the higher frequency is forcibly output from the clock-pulse generator whenever a scene on a monitor is changed from a first

display mode to a patient-data-list-display scene by a scene-changing system, as recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the inventions recited in Applicant's claims 1and 7 are not obvious in view of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al., and thus, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections and allow claims 1 and 7.

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 12-14 are in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependency on claims 1 and 7.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant recognizes that the current status of the present application is after-Final. However, Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendment is proper under the current circumstances. In this regard, Applicant submits that the amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration, as it merely incorporates into the independent claims features which were previously present in the dependent claims.

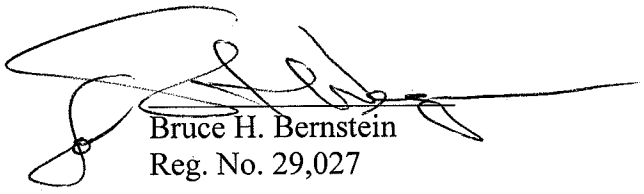
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryo OZAWA



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